# Quarterly Population Report

## Fourth Quarter 2016

### Alberta's growth outpaces national average[1]

Despite the downturn, Alberta's population grew through the fourth quarter. Alberta added 11,198 new residents between October and December, reaching a population of 4,280,127 as of January 1, 2017 (Table 1). This amounts to a rate of 0.26%, the lowest quarterly growth since 2010, but still well above the national average of 0.16%.

Despite emerging signs of economic recovery, interprovincial net outflows continued to weigh on growth, lowering the population by 0.06% this quarter. Natural increase and international migration drove the gains, contributing 0.18% and 0.14% respectively.

Year-over-year, Alberta's rate of 1.51%[2] was the slowest calendar year growth since 2010, yet remained above the national average of 1.29% (Table 2). This amounts to an absolute increase of 63,752 Albertans; only Ontario (218,893) and Quebec (69,008) added more individuals. Manitoba and Ontario had the top year-over-year growth rates with 1.67% and 1.58% respectively.

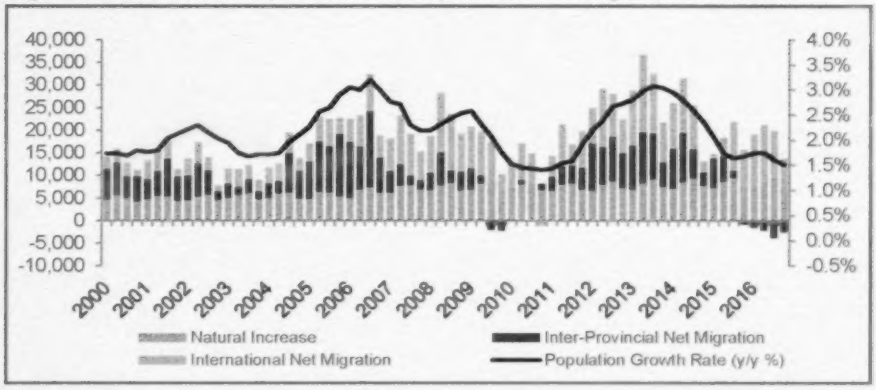
1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2017 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (Jan. 1, 2016 to Jan. 1, 2017).

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

| Population | | | Yearly Growth Rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-Jan | Canada | Alberta | 1-Jan | Canada | Alberta |
| 2012 | 34,536,389 | 3,826,708 | 2012 | 1.08% | 1.92% |
| 2013 | 34,935,909 | 3,931,225 | 2013 | 1.16% | 2.73% |
| 2014 | 35,339,468 | 4,050,711 | 2014 | 1.16% | 3.04% |
| 2015 | 35,701,743 | 4,146,691 | 2015 | 1.03% | 2.37% |
| 2016 | 36,038,515 | 4,216,375 | 2016 | 0.94% | 1.68% |
| 2017 | 36,503,097 | 4,280,127 | 2017 | 1.29% | 1.51% |

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 4th Quarter




### Migration

Migration plays a prominent role in Alberta's population growth. Net migration was down considerably from the same quarter last year, which contributed to slower growth. Total net migration increased the population by only 3,555 (Table 4) between October and December, less than half the level over the same period last year. This was the lowest fourth quarter level since 2010 – primarily a result of net outflows of interprovincial migrants and non-permanent residents.

#### Interprovincial migration

Alberta continued to see net interprovincial outflows for the fifth consecutive quarter, losing 2,573 people to other provinces (Table 4). Alberta posted the largest net loss of any jurisdiction. Other provinces with notable net losses included Quebec (-1,854), Saskatchewan (-1,115) and

Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories as of Jan. 1, 2017 and Growth Rates since Jan. 1, 2016

| | Population | Growth Rate (y/y) |
|---|---|---|
| Canada | 36,503,097 | 1.29% |
| NL | 529,696 | 0.04% |
| PE | 149,383 | 1.45% |
| NS | 952,024 | 0.65% |
| NB | 757,771 | 0.38% |
| QC | 8,356,851 | 0.83% |
| ON | 14,094,167 | 1.58% |
| MB | 1,328,346 | 1.67% |
| SK | 1,158,339 | 1.51% |
| AB | 4,280,127 | 1.51% |
| BC | 4,777,157 | 1.31% |
| YT | 37,693 | 1.47% |
| NT | 44,263 | -0.37% |
| NU | 37,280 | 1.35% |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Manitoba (-874) (Table 3). Consistent with recent trends, Alberta again saw the largest net losses of its population to British Columbia (-1,913) and Ontario (-783) (Map 1). Among the provinces, only Ontario (3,983) and British Columbia (3,292) were net receivers of interprovincial migrants this quarter.

### Net International Migration

Net international migration was the second largest contributor to Alberta's growth in this quarter, with a net increase of 6,128 (Table 4). International migration remained strong and continued to offset negative net interprovincial migration.

However, immigration to the province was down this quarter to 8,801 from 12,872 in the same quarter last year (Table 4), largely reflecting lower national levels. Alberta's share of all immigrants to Canada was 15.8%. While the share is down slightly from 18.5% in 2015, Alberta remained the third most popular destination for immigrants, behind only Ontario (39.1%) and Quebec (17.5%).

Immigration to Canada was more muted this quarter, with Canada adding 14,000 fewer new immigrants compared with the same quarter last year. This may be related to the annual federal immigration target for the country.

Canada's 2016 Immigration Levels Plan aimed to settle 280,000-305,000 immigrants in the 2016 calendar year. Over the 2016 calendar year, Canada welcomed 296,371 immigrants to the country. Since immigration levels were so strong in the first two quarters of the year, the third and fourth quarters were slower. Due to a lower national level, all the big receivers of immigrants (Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia) also had lower fourth quarters.

Net international migration was pulled down by a return to net outflows of non-permanent residents (NPRs) this quarter (-1,376). These net outflows were not unexpected as temporary foreign worker permits (the largest component of NPRs in Alberta) tend to expire at the end of the calendar year. As of January 1st, Alberta had about 80,000 NPRs.

The only provinces to have a net inflow of NPRs were Ontario (1,244) and Manitoba (939). Quebec had the greatest losses with -4,157, followed by British Columbia (-3,640) and then Alberta.

## Natural increase

Alberta added 7,643 people through natural increase, which is the result of 14,166 births and 6,523 deaths. While natural increase has been fairly stable over the past quarters, the dampened impact of migratory factors helped to make natural increase the most significant component of population growth this quarter. Alberta continues to have the highest natural growth rate out of all the provinces (0.18%).

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta October 1 to December 31, 2016

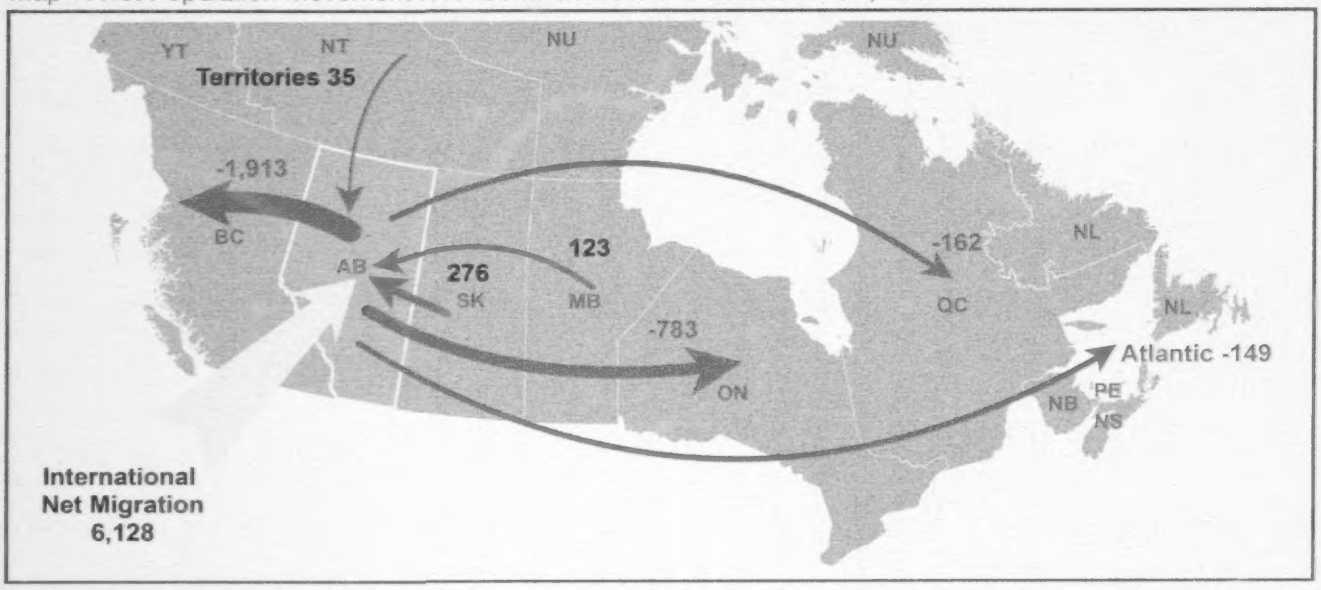


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants October 1 to December 31, 2016

| Origin \ Destination | NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NL | 0 | 23 | 166 | 69 | 77 | 431 | 50 | 0 | 251 | 30 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| PE | 22 | 0 | 58 | 43 | 13 | 164 | 0 | 7 | 72 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NS | 68 | 61 | 0 | 363 | 77 | 869 | 42 | 23 | 444 | 267 | 0 | 0 | 51 |
| NB | 49 | 45 | 269 | 0 | 340 | 663 | 26 | 44 | 346 | 238 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| QC | 11 | 25 | 142 | 183 | 0 | 3,763 | 87 | 41 | 466 | 553 | 0 | 23 | 10 |
| ON | 305 | 182 | 597 | 384 | 1,780 | 0 | 560 | 323 | 2,653 | 2,470 | 72 | 29 | 38 |
| MB | 9 | 14 | 69 | 28 | 37 | 904 | 0 | 355 | 662 | 597 | 44 | 13 | 0 |
| SK | 18 | 4 | 61 | 15 | 108 | 831 | 268 | 0 | 1,716 | 739 | 14 | 3 | 0 |
| AB | 285 | 56 | 582 | 339 | 628 | 3,436 | 539 | 1,440 | 0 | 4,921 | 18 | 108 | 6 |
| BC | 59 | 16 | 234 | 101 | 371 | 2,197 | 290 | 396 | 3,008 | 0 | 87 | 28 | 17 |
| YT | 7 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 7 | 26 | 42 | 133 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| NT | 5 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 5 | 41 | 5 | 7 | 120 | 84 | 22 | 0 | 5 |
| NU | 39 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 14 | 61 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 |

| | NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IN | 877 | 429 | 2,225 | 1,532 | 3,450 | 13,376 | 1,885 | 2,662 | 9,785 | 10,096 | 261 | 227 | 135 |
| OUT | 1,109 | 443 | 2,265 | 2,020 | 5,304 | 9,393 | 2,732 | 3,777 | 12,358 | 6,804 | 248 | 324 | 163 |
| NET | -232 | -14 | -40 | -488 | -1,854 | 3,983 | -847 | -1,115 | -2,573 | 3,292 | 13 | -97 | -28 |

| Q4 2016 | NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outflow to AB | 251 | 72 | 444 | 346 | 466 | 2653 | 662 | 1716 | 0 | 3008 | 42 | 120 | 5 |
| Inflow from AB | 285 | 56 | 582 | 339 | 628 | 3436 | 539 | 1440 | 0 | 4921 | 18 | 108 | 6 |
| Net Flow to AB | -34 | 16 | -138 | 7 | -162 | -783 | 123 | 276 | 0 | -1,913 | 24 | 12 | -1 |

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

| Quarters in Census Year | Interprovincial Migration | | | International Migration | | | | | | Total | Vital Events | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In | Out | Net | Immigrants | Net Non-Permanent Residents | Emigrants | Net Temporary Emigrants | Returning Emigrants | Net | Total Net Migration | Births | Deaths | Sum of Components |
| 2012-13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 25,552 | 15,767 | 9,785 | 9,086 | 1,862 | 2,843 | 660 | 2,020 | 9,465 | 19,250 | 14,058 | 5,274 | 28,034 |
| Oct-Dec | 15,730 | 8,026 | 7,704 | 9,103 | -355 | 1,473 | 531 | 771 | 7,515 | 15,219 | 12,888 | 5,671 | 22,436 |
| Jan-Mar | 21,438 | 11,692 | 9,746 | 8,095 | 5,284 | 1,522 | 547 | 745 | 12,055 | 21,801 | 12,835 | 5,947 | 28,689 |
| Apr-Jun | 29,833 | 18,470 | 11,363 | 10,582 | 7,316 | 1,661 | 545 | 1,440 | 17,132 | 28,495 | 13,760 | 5,549 | 36,706 |
| Total | 92,553 | 53,955 | 38,598 | 36,866 | 14,107 | 7,499 | 2,283 | 4,976 | 46,167 | 84,765 | 53,541 | 22,441 | 115,865 |
| 2013-14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 25,511 | 15,277 | 10,234 | 9,156 | 4,752 | 2,499 | 647 | 2,382 | 13,144 | 23,378 | 14,591 | 5,487 | 32,482 |
| Oct-Dec | 16,387 | 10,900 | 5,487 | 8,806 | 1,092 | 1,570 | 540 | 830 | 8,618 | 14,105 | 13,401 | 5,897 | 21,609 |
| Jan-Mar | 22,290 | 13,522 | 8,768 | 10,351 | 1,326 | 1,798 | 548 | 805 | 10,136 | 18,904 | 13,336 | 6,176 | 26,064 |
| Apr-Jun | 31,613 | 20,720 | 10,893 | 12,753 | 210 | 1,784 | 550 | 1,469 | 12,098 | 22,991 | 14,278 | 5,761 | 31,508 |
| Total | 95,801 | 60,419 | 35,382 | 41,066 | 7,380 | 7,651 | 2,285 | 5,486 | 43,996 | 79,378 | 55,606 | 23,321 | 111,663 |
| 2014-15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 22,189 | 15,803 | 6,386 | 10,283 | 43 | 2,515 | 646 | 2,382 | 9,547 | 15,933 | 15,100 | 5,690 | 25,343 |
| Oct-Dec | 14,650 | 11,574 | 3,076 | 9,150 | -5,580 | 1,580 | 541 | 830 | 2,279 | 5,355 | 13,824 | 6,114 | 13,065 |
| Jan-Mar | 22,849 | 16,367 | 6,482 | 8,203 | -5,775 | 1,811 | 548 | 805 | 874 | 7,356 | 13,692 | 6,396 | 14,652 |
| Apr-Jun | 29,786 | 24,136 | 5,650 | 11,970 | -7,049 | 1,797 | 550 | 1,469 | 4,043 | 9,693 | 14,588 | 5,964 | 18,317 |
| Total | 89,474 | 67,880 | 21,594 | 39,606 | -18,361 | 7,703 | 2,285 | 5,486 | 16,743 | 38,337 | 57,204 | 24,164 | 71,377 |
| 2015-16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 21,440 | 19,832 | 1,608 | 14,172 | -2,662 | 2,523 | 646 | 2,382 | 10,723 | 12,331 | 15,351 | 5,884 | 21,798 |
| Oct-Dec | 11,355 | 12,150 | -795 | 12,872 | -3,541 | 1,586 | 541 | 830 | 8,034 | 7,239 | 14,001 | 6,323 | 14,917 |
| Jan-Mar | 16,869 | 18,394 | -1,525 | 15,357 | -1,980 | 1,817 | 548 | 805 | 11,817 | 10,292 | 13,875 | 6,609 | 17,558 |
| Apr-Jun | 21,837 | 24,002 | -2,165 | 14,983 | -1,633 | 1,802 | 550 | 1,469 | 12,467 | 10,302 | 14,808 | 6,164 | 18,946 |
| Total | 71,501 | 74,378 | -2,877 | 57,384 | -9,816 | 7,728 | 2,285 | 5,486 | 43,041 | 40,164 | 58,035 | 24,980 | 73,219 |
| 2016-17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 18,087 | 21,937 | -3,850 | 10,072 | 1,159 | 2,523 | 646 | 2,382 | 10,444 | 6,594 | 15,529 | 6,073 | 16,050 |
| Oct-Dec | 9,785 | 12,358 | -2,573 | 8,801 | -1,376 | 1,586 | 541 | 830 | 6,128 | 3,555 | 14,166 | 6,523 | 11,198 |
| Jan-Mar | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Apr-Jun | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 27,872 | 34,295 | -6,423 | 18,873 | -217 | 4,109 | 1,187 | 3,212 | 16,572 | 10,149 | 29,695 | 12,596 | 27,248 |